



NEWS RELEASE

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“Grim Sleeper” Convicted Of 10 Murders, One Attempted Murder

A jury today found Lonnie David Franklin Jr. guilty of killing 10 young women and girls over a 22-year period and disposing of their partially clothed or naked bodies like trash in alleys and dumpsters around South Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated 1 1/2 days before finding Franklin, 63, guilty of all 10 counts of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of multiple murders to be true.

In addition, the jury found the former city sanitation worker guilty of the attempted, willful, deliberate and premeditated murder of the sole surviving victim, Enietra Washington. Washington, who was 30 when she was shot and thrown from Franklin’s car after accepting a ride on Nov. 19, 1988, testified during the three-month trial.

The same jurors return on May 12 to begin the penalty phase in case BA382700. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman of the Major Crimes Division and Deputy District Attorney Marguerite Rizzo of the Forensic Science section are prosecuting the case.

Franklin was found guilty of killing his victims – girls and women ranging in age from 15 to 35 – between August 1985 and January 2007. All were discovered in alleys either covered with debris, thrown in trash bins or dumped in bushes.

Silverman told jurors that all of the victims were connected “to the same serial killer” either through DNA evidence, firearms evidence, or a combination of the two. That serial killer was Franklin, she said. Eight of Franklin’s victims were shot to death with a .25-caliber firearm. Of the eight, four were shot and strangled.

Two victims were strangled to death: the youngest, 15-year-old Princess Berthomieux, whose naked body was discovered on March 9, 2002; and the oldest, 35-year-old Valerie McCorvey, whose body was discovered on July 11, 2003.

Franklin's last victim, Janecia Peters, 25, was discovered shot to death on Jan. 1, 2007. Her body was discovered inside of a plastic trash bag contained within a trash dumpster. The .25-caliber automatic firearm used to kill her was discovered in Franklin's home after Los Angeles Police Department Robbery-Homicide detectives executed search warrants.

Franklin was arrested on July 7, 2010, by LAPD after a lengthy task force investigation.

His victims also included:

- Debra Jackson, 29, body discovered on Aug. 10, 1985
- Henrietta Wright, 34, body discovered on Aug. 12, 1986
- Barbara Ware, 23, body discovered on Jan. 10, 1987
- Bernita Sparks, 26, body discovered on April 16, 1987
- Mary Lowe, 26, body discovered on Nov. 1, 1987
- Lachrica Jefferson, 22, body discovered on Jan. 30, 1988
- Alicia Alexander, 18, body discovered on Sept. 11, 1988

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Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.